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PRELIMINARY REPORT CONCERNING THE EFFECTS OF OXYGEN
UPON ANIMAL LIFE.

T. H. DINSMORE, JR., EMPORIA, KAS.

For some time past, doubts have been entertained in the minds of thoughtful scientific workers as to the correctness of the commonly accepted views concerning the effects of oxygen upon animal life. It has been taken for granted (1) that animals placed in oxygen would almost immediately manifest signs of intoxication; (2) that in a very short time death would ensue as a result of abnormal combustion. In experimenting upon this matter we endeavored to find answers to the following questions:

- (1) In case of intoxication, what length of time must elapse before it takes place?
- (2) How soon, if at all, would death ensue?
- (3) Whether the effects would vary with different kinds of animal life?
- (4) Whether new data might be obtained?

In experimenting we used mice and kittens, confining them in large jars of pure oxygen.

RESULTS.

(1) The mice manifested, with the exception of a more rapid breathing, no signs whatever of intoxication.

(2) After remaining in the oxygen an hour they were apparently as well as when first placed in the gas.

(3) The kittens, half-grown, showed no signs of excitement except more rapid breathing.

(4) They were, as a rule, left in the gas from 30 to 60 minutes, but one after an hour and a half was taken out in an unconscious condition.

OUR CONCLUSIONS.

(1) That animals placed in pure oxygen do not become intoxicated within a short time.

(2) That oxygen does not cause death from abnormal combustion.

(3) That the loss of consciousness on the part of one kitten was due more to an excess of carbonic acid and other impurities exhaled from its lungs than to the effects of oxygen.

(4) That all animals when first exposed to pure oxygen will breathe more rapidly until the lungs become accustomed to the new medium. (New.)

(5) That upon different kinds of animal life the effects of oxygen are comparatively the same.

Our experiments will be repeated, and the subject more fully investigated, during the coming year.

MOUNDS IN DAVIS COUNTY.

BY CHAPLAIN JOHN D. PARKER, U.S.A., FORT RILEY.

In Davis county, three miles and a half northwest of Junction City, are four mounds, probably constructed by mound-builders. They are located on a bluff of the Republican river, about one mile south of the river and something more than a hundred feet above the river-bed. The mounds are found on the highest point of the bluff overlooking the Republican valley, which is here about a mile and a half wide. Three of the mounds are in the form of a semi-circle, with its convexity toward the south. The fourth mound is located east of the others, about three